

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 3, 5, 6, 9, 11-14, 16, and 20 are presently active in this case. Claims 3 and 9 have been amended by way of the present Amendment. No new matter has been entered. Claims 1, 2, 4, 7, 8, 10, 15, 17-19, 21, and 22 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer.

The Official Action asserts that the term "POGO" is a trademark. The Applicants note that the term is capitalized throughout the specification. The Applicants note that the term "POGO," with relation to the phrase "pogo stick," is described in Webster's II New College Dictionary as being a *former* trademark.

The Applicants want to thank Patent Examiner Lucy Thomas and Supervisory Patent Examiner Michael Sherry for the courtesies extended to Applicants' representative, Christopher Ward, during the personal interview conducted on September 11, 2007. As noted in the Interview Summary, it was agreed during the interview that the anticipation rejection of independent Claims 3 and 9 should be withdrawn.

Claims 1 (the Applicants presume this rejection should refer to Claim 3, rather than Claim 1), 9, and 16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by JP 6-9098. Claims 5, 6, 11, 12, 15, and 17-22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over JP 6-9098 in view of del Puerto et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,778,258). Claims

13 and 14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over JP 6-9098 in view of Poli et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,280,979). For the reasons discussed during the interview and below, the Applicants respectfully traverse the art rejections.

A claim is anticipated only if each and every element as set forth in the claims is found, either expressly or inherently described, in a single prior art reference. As will be demonstrated below, the JP 6-9098 reference clearly does not meet each and every limitation of independent Claims 3 and 9.

Claims 3 and 9 of the present application recite, among other features, a charge eliminating mechanism comprising a grounded wiring line having a first end and a second end that is grounded, and a contact terminal including a third end and a fourth end, where the fourth end is electrically connected to the first end of the grounded wiring line, and where a contact state of the third end and a stage is physically turning on/off, and when the third end is in contact with the stage, the stage is grounded, and wherein at least one of the contact terminal and the stage includes an elastic contact mechanism to cause the third end of the contact terminal and the stage to come into elastic contact with each other.

The JP 6-9098 reference depicts a mobile robot (1) having a robot arm (6) with a grip (6c), and a semiconductor fabrication machine (2) having a wafer cassette (3) and a contact bar (12). The contact bar (12) includes a high resistor (12c) and a conductor bar (12b), which is electrically connected to the wafer cassette via lead wire (12a). Prior to contacting the wafer cassette (3), the robot arm (6) contacts the high resistor (12c) of the contact bar (12) such that any electric potential difference between arm (6) and cassette (3) is equalized via the resistor to prevent electrical impact and noise generation. After the arm (6) and the wafer

(3) are equipotential via the use of the contact bar (12), then the arm (6) can be used to manipulate the wafer cassette (3).

The JP 6-9098 reference does not disclose a grounded wiring line having a grounded second end and a first end electrically connected to a fourth end of a contact terminal including a third end, wherein at least one of the contact terminal and the stage includes an elastic contact mechanism to cause the third end of the contact terminal and the stage to come into elastic contact with each other. The Official Action appears to cite lead line (12a) as the grounded wiring line of the present invention, and conductor rod (12b) and high resistor (12c) as the contact terminal of the present invention. Presumably the wafer cassette (3) is being cited as the stage; however, there does not appear to be any feature in the JP 6-9098 reference which reads on the third end recited in the claims, such that the third end is configured to come into elastic contact with wafer cassette (3). For example, no on/off contact state exists between lead line (12a) and wafer cassette (3), as they are always connected. Also, JP 6-9098 does not describe lead wire (12a) being grounded.

Based upon the discussion in the interview and the above, the Applicants respectfully submit that the JP 6-9098 reference does not anticipate independent Claims 3 and 9 of the present application. Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully request the withdrawal of the anticipation rejection of Claims 3 and 9.

The dependent claims are considered allowable for the reasons advanced for the independent claim from which they depend. These claims are further considered allowable as they recite other features of the invention that are neither disclosed nor suggested by the applied references when those features are considered within the context of their respective

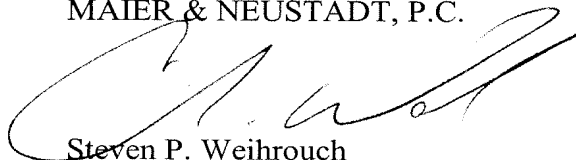
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independent claim.

Consequently, in view of the above discussion, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for formal allowance and an early and favorable reconsideration of this application is therefore requested.

Respectfully Submitted,

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